

# The Semi-Weekly Messenger.

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## THE GRIDIRON CLUB.

This Famous Newspaper Club of Washington City Gives One of Its Unique Banquets.

The Forty Members of the Club and One Hundred and Fifty Guests Attend—Burlesques and Satires Upon Current Events and Public Men. Distinguished Men of All Callings Among the Speakers of the Evening—Hits at President Roosevelt and Comic Allusions to Events in His Life—A Comic Cabinet Meeting. Fine Musical Programme.

Washington, December 7.—The Gridiron Club, composed of forty Washington correspondents, scored another notable success tonight on the occasion of the December dinner. About 150 guests assembled around the gridiron table at the Arlington hotel, which was beautifully decorated for the occasion.

As usual, the entertainment consisted of burlesques and satires upon public events and things, and numerous public men and prominent guests were treated to the usual course of Gridiron broiling, which is always of a good natured kind.

Mr. Arthur W. Dunn, the president of the club, at the beginning of the dinner, announced that serious affairs of the world would be reserved for other times or treated in a lighter vein, and this was the keynote of the subsequent proceedings. The features, as usual, touched upon public events in a jocular manner and began with a menu which was a "new Alice in Wonderland."

By the most delicate inference the illustrations and quotations could be applied to some of the events in the life of President Roosevelt. The arrival of the "Collier Merrimac" (Merrimac) with a supply of champagne to fill the bunkers of the diners was a laughable skit.

The selection of delegates to London to attend the coronation furnished opportunity for the nomination of a number of guests for the place and their nomination for various reasons.

There was quite a large number of railroad men present, and they were all brought out in a competition for a beauty show and finally the prize was awarded to B. W. Wrenn.

The comments of the members of the club upon the various qualifications and appearances of these railway officials caused the room to echo with laughter.

Another laughable skit was a fake meeting of an alleged cabinet in which various sporting characters appeared and tried to pass themselves off as the real thing. They were finally hustled out unceremoniously.

Among those who made excellent speeches were Postmaster Gen. Smith, Senators Allison and Mitchell, the Chinese minister, and ex-Senator Carter and Governor Francis, both now connected with the Louisiana purchase expedition; Representative Landis of Indiana, Solicitor General Richardson of the department of justice, and others.

The musical programme, as usual, was excellent, consisting of solos, quartettes and choruses, as well as catchy topical songs.

### BRITISH ACTION DENOUNCED

In the Dutch Parliament—Statement by Foreign Minister.

The Hague, December 7.—The confiscation of the Dutch Red Cross outfit outside of Pretoria and the imprisonment of the staff on the island of Ceylon was again the subject of heated comment in the chamber here today, the members denouncing the action of the British as being contrary to the Geneva convention. The foreign minister, Melvin van Lyndon, explained that the Geneva convention was only applicable to the ambulances of belligerents, but even their staffs could be made prisoners if they violated neutrality. The government, he added, had frequently demanded that the Netherlands be released on parole, but Great Britain is not obliged to release them until after the close of the war.

### OVERRIDING STATE LAWS.

A Federal Judge Orders a Man to Prison for Obeying a State Law.

Macon, Ga., December 7.—Federal and state courts came into sharp conflict today over a receivership. Judge Speer, of the former, had demanded that receiver T. J. Carling, appointed by Judge Felton, of the latter, should turn over all property in his hands as such receiver to the United States marshal. Limit of time for so doing was fixed at 10 o'clock today.

Carling's attorney came into court and asked to be heard on a petition of revision and review. He was instantly asked if Carling had obeyed the court's mandate. The reply was he had not. Whereupon Judge Speer immediately

ordered Carling's arrest in contempt and further directed that he be taken and confined in the jail at Savannah. Carling's attorneys were thunderstruck. They abandoned further argument and went into consultation in view of the immediate execution of the order. Before they had concluded Judge Speer announced that the execution would be delayed ten days, in order that Carling's attorneys might have a chance to go before the United States circuit court of appeals in New Orleans.

Carling is one of the most prominent men in Georgia and has national prominence as a Mason and Knight of Pythias. This is the third time in ten days that Judge Speer has overruled state laws.

### IN MISS EASTWICK'S BEHALF.

The State Department Looking Into Her Case.

Washington, December 7.—The legal officers of the state department are looking into an application made by the family of Miss Eastwick, the unfortunate American girl confined in London after conviction of having raised a stock certificate.

The purpose of the applicants is to have the department appeal to the British foreign office in Miss Eastwick's behalf. They have presented an overwhelming mass of testimony to show that the girl has in the past been subject to fits of derangement, rendering her irresponsible, and it is asserted that she is at present in that condition. The state department will transmit these papers to the United States embassy at London with instructions to do all that can properly be done in behalf of the prisoner.

### A SCHOONER DISABLED.

The Hobson Hickman Picked Up at Sea and Towed Into Port.

Norfolk, Va., December 7.—The three masted schooner Hobson Hickman was towed into Hampton Roads last night by the Ward Line steamer Saratoga, which picked her up sixty miles off Cape Charles yesterday morning.

The schooner, which is owned in Norfolk, sailed from Norfolk for New York November 30th with a cargo of lumber for the Standard Oil Company. After a terrible time in the storms, during which she lost many sails she sprung a leak and was blown from off Highland light to the place where the Saratoga found her.

### MARTIAL LAW CONTINUED.

Troops Still Guarding the Negroes in Jail at Andalusia, Ala.

Andalusia, Ala., December 7.—The militia sent yesterday to protect the negroes in jail are still on duty. Governor Jelks has been requested to order the soldiers to remain until the negroes are tried, as the citizens fear to have the militia leave until the case has been disposed of. It is understood the negroes will be given a hearing next Monday. The town continues under martial rule.

### A TEST OF THE FULTON.

Successfully Made for an Officer of The Norwegian Navy.

New York, December 7.—A test of the submarine boat Fulton was made today in Long Island sound for Captain Geelmugen, of the Norwegian navy.

The Fulton was given a surface trial of one mile and was then submerged for a longer run, at the end of which two torpedoes were fired at imaginary targets. The trial was pronounced entirely successful and Captain Geelmugen expressed great satisfaction over the Fulton's showing.

TRANSPORT SHERIDAN ARRIVES. She Has a Tempestuous Voyage—Narrow Escape From Foundering.

San Francisco, December 7.—After many exciting ventures in oriental waters, having narrowly escaped foundering, the transport Sheridan is safe in port. With several congressmen on board of a large number of sick and discharged soldiers, the Sheridan left Manila fifty-one days ago, bound for San Francisco.

She had been at sea but a few days when she ran into a typhoon that all but sank her. The fury of the storm was terrific. When it abated the Sheridan tried to make headway, but the engineers reported to Captain Pierce that the machinery was disabled. The transport drifted for a time with the currents of the sea and almost went ashore on the Japanese coast.

On October 10th she reached Nagasaki, much the worse for wear and was put in drydock. After being thoroughly repaired the Sheridan left Nagasaki and made the run to this port in 17 days and 5 hours.

## NELLIE CROPSEY IN BALTIMORE

STATEMENT BY CHIEF OF POLICE OF NORFOLK.

In Latter City Under Assumed Name November 22nd—Spent the Day with E. F. Kelly—Took Boat for Baltimore Traveling Alone—Search Being Made for Her in Certain Institutions There—Suicide Theory Still Held by Some.

Norfolk, Va., December 7.—Police Chief Vellines, of this city, is confident that Nell Cropsey, the Elizabeth City girl whose mysterious disappearance on November 20th from her home, and had to this time remained a mystery, is now in Baltimore, and he believes that in the course of the next day or so she will be located there.

On the morning of November 22nd a girl came to Norfolk on the Seaboard Air Line train from Franklin, Va., and secured a room in a boarding house. During the day she met Edward F. Kelly, who boarded at the same house and she dined with him at a restaurant.

She went by the name of Jessie Baker and told him that she was from Elizabeth City and on her way to Baltimore, where she would visit for six or eight weeks and possibly go to Pennsylvania.

Your correspondent was informed in Elizabeth City today that here is a Miss Jessie Baker living in that town who bears somewhat of a resemblance to and who was a friend of Nell Cropsey. Miss Baker, however, has not been away from home.

Kelley spent the major part of the day with the girl and saw her aboard the Baltimore steamer that evening. She was alone and with no baggage.

From a statement made by Kelley of things noticed by him while with the girl the search now being conducted in Baltimore is confined to certain institutions.

Police Chief Vellines wired Attorney A. G. Cropsey, of New York tonight that he had every reason to believe Nell Cropsey is alive.

Police Chief Dawson of Elizabeth City is her tonight and still insists on the murder and abduction theory. The Pasquotank river is yet being dragged near Baltimore, December 7.—The local police at midnight report they have been unable to locate Miss Cropsey in this city.

Charlotte, N. C., December 7.—A special to The Observer from Suffolk, Va., says:

In three particulars the mother, sisters and cousin of Nellie Cropsey say that her dress at the time of her disappearance varies from the description given them yesterday by Edward Kelley, on whose information Chief Vellines, of Norfolk, bases his story of the alleged discovery. Kelley said the girl he saw to the Baltimore boat wore new shoes, a light jacket and a red waist with brass buttons. The family says Nell wore a red waist with no brass buttons, old shoes and no coat. The sisters claim to know that Nell had not more than 5 cents when she left.

Wilcox, her sweetheart, has returned to Elizabeth City. Today when seen he was standing on a street corner in good spirits.

### THE BONINE MURDER CASE.

Lengthy Argument on Proposed Expert Testimony Offered by Defense

Washington, December 7.—Counsel for defense in the trial of Mrs. Lola Ida Bonine today precipitated a lengthy argument over the right to ask an expert witness certain hypothetical questions bearing on the hip wound of Ayres. The court directed the jury to retire during the discussion. The defense stated that it would endeavor to show by the witness, Dr. W. P. Carr that the government's contention that Ayres received his wound at long range was wholly untenable from the very nature of the wound. The court will render its decision Monday.

### SENT TO SING SING.

Police Warden Bissert of New York. Begins His Five-Year Term.

New York, December 7.—Police Warden George Bissert, convicted of accepting a bribe from the keeper of a disreputable house, was taken to Sing Sing prison today and entered upon the service of a sentence of imprisonment for five years and six months recently imposed on him. Bissert was accompanied to the train by Police Captains Diamond and Herlihy. The former was Bissert's superior and was recently fined \$1,000 for dereliction of duty, and Herlihy is under indictment for alleged neglect of duty.

### ROOSEVELT'S FIRST BILL.

Sigs Bill to Admit Free of Duty Articles for Charleston Exposition.

Washington, December 7.—President Roosevelt today signed the first bill sent to him by congress, thus creating the first law to be enacted under his administration. It was the act to admit free of duty and to permit the transfer of foreign exhibits from the Pan-American exposition to the South Carolina Interstate and West Indian Exposition at Charleston, S. C.

## PHILIPPINE TARIFF QUESTION

MORE DIFFICULT TO HANDLE THAN AT FIRST SUPPOSED.

Secretary Root Holds a Conference With Republican Leaders on this Subject—Prospects of a Bitter Struggle over the Settlement of This Vexed Question—Secretary Root Urges Prompt Legislation for Relief of Cuba.

Washington, December 6.—An important conference was held at the war department today in regard to the legislation necessary to meet fiscal conditions in the Philippines as a result of the recent insular decision of the supreme court. There were present Secretary Root, Senators Lodge and Platt, of Connecticut, and Representatives Payne and Dalzell.

During the afternoon Senator Spooner called at the war department and talked with Secretary Root about the legislative necessities of the Philippines. It appears that the problem presented is not as easy as was supposed when it was thought that a single joint resolution could be put through congress within a few days to continue practically existing tariff rates as to Philippine exports and imports.

Some members of the ways and means committee see difficulties growing out of the existence of an export tax in the islands, and there is much apprehension that the issue may be made a party one, with the result that there will be a bitter struggle, at least in the senate, if not in the house, before satisfactory legislation can be held.

It is the expectation, however, that after hearing from all of the leaders Secretary Root will be able to perfect a plan of action by Tuesday, when the house next meets.

It is learned that in the course of the conference today, Secretary Root took advantage of the opportunity to talk freely with his callers about the pressing needs of Cuba and to urge early action upon legislation along the line recommended in his last annual report.

A movement is on foot among the republican members of the ways and means committee to incorporate a reciprocity feature in the forthcoming Philippine tariff bill. As roughly outlined in the informal talks thus far had among members of the committee, the reciprocity provision would recite them when the Philippine commissioners reduce the duty on certain designated articles, including American textiles and various goods easily marketable in the Philippines, then the president of the United States shall by proclamation grant stated reductions of duty on Philippine sugar and other products shipped to this country. This reciprocity provision would be along the lines of that provided in the Dingley act, whereby President McKinley, by proclamation, made tariff reductions on a limited number of articles, without the formality of a treaty.

A reciprocity provision on the foregoing lines was discussed at the meeting of republican members of the committee last Friday afternoon, and received very favorable consideration, although action was deferred until the re-assembling of the republican members on Monday.

Chairman Payne probably will call a meeting of the full committee on Thursday, by which time the republican draft of a Philippine bill may be ready although no definite understanding on this point has been reached.

### MARRIED BY TELEGRAPH.

The Bride-in a Kentucky Telegraph Office, the Groom in Texas.

Bowling Green, Ky., December 7.—Miss Maude Wilcutt stood in the telegraph office tonight and became the bride of Dr. J. W. Simmons, of Peaster, Texas. They were married by wire. The questions were asked from the Texas end by a justice of the peace and were answered by Miss Wilcutt. Miss Wilcutt at present is teaching school in Butler county. She and Dr. Simmons recently met while traveling. The operator and newspaper acquaintances were the Bowling Green witnesses to the marriage. Mrs. Simmons will leave next week for Texas to join her husband.

### NOT CONTEMPT OF COURT.

The Chicago American Editors Discharged—Judge Dunne's Decision.

Chicago, December 7.—Andrew M. Lawrence, managing editor of Hearst's Chicago American and H. S. Canfield, a reporter, who were sentenced recently by Judge Hancey to forty and thirty days respectively in the county jail for contempt of court, were discharged from custody by Judge Dunne today. In granting a writ of habeas corpus to the relators the court said that the case hinged on whether the case on which the Chicago American commented had been disposed of by Judge Hancey or was still pending.

Judge Dunne held that the case in question had been finally disposed of by Judge Hancey when he gave his decision from the bench. The fact that

## BENCH AND BAR EXCITED

Over Efforts of Strikers of Certain Republican Lawyers to Bring Politics Into Court.

the clerk had not entered the order when the comment on the decision was printed and published, therefore, does not show that the case was still pending. The act of entering the order on the record was merely a ministerial act, Judge Dunne said.

Judge Dunne admitted that the articles and cartoon which Judge Hancey objected to were clearly calculated to intimidate and coerce the court, had the court not already rendered its decision. Judge Dunne admitted that the cartoon in evidence was probably libelous and the articles possibly so.

Harsh criticism, Judge Dunne remarked, is one of the incidents and burdens of public life. "I see no reason," he said, "why a judge should be offered a different remedy for attacks in the public prints than a president, or a governor or a congressman."

### ROYAL MARITAL FELICITIES.

Scandal at The Hague—The Unhappy Marriage of Two of Victoria's Granddaughters.

London, December 7.—The domestic infelicities of European royalists have never come so prominently before the public as have today the difficulties of Queen Wilhelmina of The Netherlands, the dramatic circumstances of which form one of the chief topics of conversation. The romantic halo surrounding the young queen and the keen interest taken in her marriage only help to accentuate public curiosity and sympathy. Moreover, it is realized that Holland's scandal may have grave political consequences for Europe, and hence its developments are followed closely by statesmen. While those best fitted to judge incline to the belief that it will all blow over for the present, there are grave apprehensions for the future.

From a personal point of view, England is more deeply concerned in the scandal going on in Hesse, where one of Queen Victoria's grand daughters is on the verge of separation from her husband.

This youthful marriage—the grand duchess of Hesse was only eighteen when she exchanged her British for a continental title—has proved to be one of the most unsatisfactory among all the royal matches, and the climax, it is believed, would have been reached ere this had it not been for the late Queen Victoria's imperious influence.

The duke of Edinburgh's other daughter, the crown princess of Rumania, according to common report, also leads a none too happy marital existence, though recent rumors of an open rupture are met with strenuous official denial. However, no one in England would be surprised to hear that she is figuring in a role similar to that of her sister, the grand duchess of Hesse.

### A HEAD-END COLLISION.

Two Freight Trains Come Together. Two Men Killed.

Charleston, W. Va., December 7.—A head-end collision between heavily loaded freight trains on the Chesapeake and Ohio railway early this morning resulted in the death of two men, fireman Memler, of the westbound train, and an unknown tramp. A brakeman of the same train was fatally burned and scalded. Engineer Smith was cut and bruised. The collision occurred between Nuttall and Fayette stations, and it is said, was caused by a telegraph operator forgetting to deliver his orders. Both engines were almost demolished and a number of cars were derailed.

### SENATOR SEWELL REACHES HOME.

His Condition Favorable—No Occasion for Alarm.

Camden, N. J., December 7.—Senator William J. Sewell, arrived here today over the Pennsylvania railroad from Asheville, N. C., where he went about two months ago in search of health. He was conveyed to his home in this city where he will remain until he feels able to attend to his duties in congress. Captain William Joyce Sewell, who accompanied his father from the south, said today that the senator's condition is favorable and that there is no occasion for the alarming reports which have been circulated concerning him.

### ADMIRAL SAMPSON'S CONDITION.

Though No Worse He is Still in Very Feeble Condition.

Washington, December 7.—It is authoritatively stated that there has been no marked change for the worse in condition of Rear Admiral W. T. Sampson. However, he is now, as he has been since he came to Washington, in feeble health, and his chances for withstanding any serious strain upon his vitality are said to be slight.

Sensation Produced in Raleigh Over Conduct of These Men—Defendants in Federal Court Made to Believe They Must Employ Republican Lawyers or Receive Full Penalty of the Law—Meeting of the Raleigh Bar—The Matter to Be Laid Before Judge Purnell—The Judge's Determination to Put a Stop to Such Practice—A Man's Vicious Attack on His Wife.

(Special to the Messenger.)

Raleigh, December 7.—The publication today about practices of "strikers" who are working for certain republican lawyers in the federal court practice here caused a big sensation.

An informal meeting of the democratic members of the bar attending the federal court here, resulted in a determination to call the attention of Judge Purnell to the system of forcing persons charged with violation of revenue laws to employ republican lawyers to the exclusion of democrats. Every lawyer present cited instances among his own clients, fully showing that federal sub-officers were not only using their influence to procure employment of republican lawyers, but were even threatening persons charged with extreme punishment unless they should employ as their counsel republicans. Members of the bar cited cases in which their clients had been told that unless they employed republican lawyers they would be given the extreme penalty, and that if they did employ a republican lawyer they would "get off light." They told how their clients had been informed by these sub-officers that "democratic lawyers had no influence with the court."

Among the members of the bar are several who are warm friends of Judge Purnell. They indignantly resent this insinuation against his impartiality.

As a result of this conference one of the members of the bar went to see Judge Purnell today, told him what had been done, assuring him of the entire confidence and respect of democratic members of the bar, and said these things were being said and the judiciary thereby brought into disrepute.

Judge Purnell was indignant and is only awaiting opportunity to make an example of any man who comes before him relying upon effort of a republican lawyer.

Governor Aycock today changed "North Carolina Week" at the Charleston exposition from January 20th to April 7th.

James McNeill, a white farmer of this county, in a fit of jealousy about a neighbor, attacked his wife like a madman, beat her to the floor, bruising her seriously, then shot her. She threw her arm up and the bullet struck it, and this saved her life. She is in the hospital here. McNeill is in jail, after a hearing this afternoon.

### HERBERT B. MARX IN HIDING.

His Brother Professes Ignorance as to His Whereabouts.

New York, December 7.—William B. Marx brother of Herbert Marx said today that he did not know the present whereabouts of the young lawyer who shot three men in Virginia in defending himself from attack.

"He is not in New York or Brooklyn," declared William B. Marx. "He is in the country, but not in Virginia. He is recuperating from the shock of his experience. He was very much upset a few days ago, but is better now. When my brother is well he will return to his home in Brooklyn. How soon that will be I cannot tell. I have not heard from him today, and do not know exactly where he is."

Washington, December 7.—Herbert Marx, the young man who shot and killed two men and mortally wounded a third near Oak Grove, Va., last Tuesday night, and who is reported to have disappeared since the shooting, passed Thursday and Friday quietly in Washington with friends. Friday evening he left the city, saying he was going to his home in Brooklyn. While here Mr. Marx called upon Representative W. H. Jones, from the congressional district in Virginia where the tragedy occurred and related the circumstances of the shooting which differed very little, in all, from the accounts already published.

### The Great Sun Circles Observed.

Cleveland, O., December 7.—A remarkable meteorological observation that has undoubtedly become historical in astronomy, was made here yesterday by Rev. Frederick Odenbach, S. I., professor of physics in St. Ignatius college. The observation was that of the great sun circle or halo of Hovey which has only been observed three times before and probably never so perfect.